

Searcy City Council – Regular Session
Tuesday, September 9, 2014 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

Mayor David Morris called to order the Regular Session of the Searcy City Council. Mr. Al Fowler gave the Invocation, with the Pledge of Allegiance following, led by Mr. J. R. Thomas. City Clerk Jerry Morris called the roll with the following Aldermen answering “present”: Logan Cothorn, Mary Ann Arnett, JR Howard, Steve Sterling, Dale English, Don Raney, and Dale Brewer. Also present was City Attorney Buck Gibson. Alderman Mike Chalenburg was not present.

Item (3) on the agenda was for a motion to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add items: (11) resolution for approval of Architectural and Engineering contracts and authorization to enter into the contracts for the projects in the 2014 8-year plan; (12) resolution for approval of a bid and authorization to enter into a contract for the 2014 street paving program; (15-1-g) and (15-1-h) budget adjustment ordinance appropriations. A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Brewer to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to add the said items. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, and Cothorn.

The minutes of the regular August 12, 2014 meeting of the Council were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Sterling and seconded by Mrs. Arnett to approve the minutes. The following voted to approve: Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Cothorn, and Arnett.

Clerk/Treasurer Jerry Morris presented and read the Treasurer’s Report which lists the following balances as of 8-31-14: General Fund: \$1,130,433.32; Street Fund \$1,896,550.07; Capital Equipment Fund \$19,478.95; LOPFI Fund \$77,825.57; Act 833 Fund \$158,142.89; Airport Projects Fund \$1,169.79; Special Highway Tax Connector Route Fund \$8,059,255.58. He also reported a total of \$4,200,520.68 year-to-date in City and County Sales Tax revenues received, which is down \$153,730.18 from the same time in 2013. The total of all funds (excluding special highway tax connector route fund) is \$3,283,600.59.

Item (6) on the agenda was the quarterly Economic Development Report from the Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Searcy Regional Economic Development Corporation, presented by Mr. Buck Layne of the Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Item (7) was for the reappointment of Mr. Charles Green to the Searcy, Arkansas (Harding University and Harding Place) Public Educational and Residential Housing Facilities Board for a 5-year term set to expire on August 17, 2018 (his previous term had expired on August 17, 2013). A motion was made by Mr. Raney and seconded by Mr. Brewer to approve the reappointment of Mr. Charles Green to the Searcy, Arkansas

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(Harding University and Harding Place) Public Educational and Residential Housing Facilities Board for a 5-year term set to expire on August 17, 2018. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Cothorn, Arnett, and Howard.

Item (8) on the agenda was for the appointment of Ms. Susannah Streit to the Searcy, Arkansas (Harding University and Harding Place) Public Educational and Residential Housing Facilities Board for a 5-year term set to expire on August 17, 2019. A motion was made by Mr. Howard and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the appointment of Ms. Susannah Streit to the Searcy, Arkansas (Harding University and Harding Place) Public Educational and Residential Housing Facilities Board for a 5-year term set to expire on August 17, 2019. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Brewer, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, and Sterling. Mr. Raney abstained from voting for the reason that Ms. Streit is his daughter.

Item (9) was for the approval of the operational procedures for the ‘Reserve and Opportunity Fund Advisory Group’. Mayor Morris noted that these procedures were presented to the Council on Thursday, September 4, 2014 at the pre-council agenda meeting by Executive Assistant to the Mayor/Human Resources Manager Jay Shock. He also noted that discussion of these procedures was conducted at that time. Motion was made by Mrs. Arnett and seconded by Mr. Cothorn to approve the operational procedures, as had been presented, for the ‘Reserve and Opportunity Advisory Group’. Mayor Morris asked if there was any more discussion regarding the operational procedures for the ‘Reserve and Opportunity Fund Advisory Group’ at this time. No discussion or comment was brought forward. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, and English.

Item (10) on the agenda was for the approval to amend the 80/20 Arkansas Department of Aeronautics grant for the Searcy Municipal Airport that had been approved for application at the May 13, 2014 regular City Council meeting. The amendment was for the inclusion of security/surveillance equipment to be installed for airport accessibility. Mayor Morris noted that Mr. Matt House, Airport Commission member, and Mr. Robert Chatman of Miller-Newell Engineers, Inc. had presented information regarding the inclusion of security/surveillance equipment in the grant request at the pre-council agenda meeting on Thursday, September 4, 2014. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Raney, to table this item until the October meeting of the City Council to allow for the opportunity to gather more information and for continued discussion regarding this matter. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, and Raney.

Items (11) and (12) had been listed as separate items on the agenda, but, due to the similarity of the items, a single Resolution was drafted by City Attorney Buck Gibson for the approval of contracts and the authorization to enter into said contracts. Item (11) was a resolution for the approval of the Architectural and Engineering contracts and authorization to enter into the contracts for the projects to be undertaken in the 2014 8-

Year Plan as described in the attached Exhibit A of Resolution 2013-23. Item (12) was a resolution for the approval of a bid/contract and authorization to enter into the contract for the 2014 street paving program that was authorized at the August 12, 2014 regular City Council meeting. Only one bid, from Delta Asphalt of Arkansas, was received for the 2014 street paving program. Mr. Gibson read the resolution in full. A motion was made by Mr. Sterling and seconded by Mr. English to approve the resolution for the approval of certain contracts and the authorization to enter into said contracts regarding the projects to be undertaken in the 2014 8-Year Plan and the 2014 street paving program. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Cothern, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, and Brewer. **Resolution 2014-15**

Item (13) was a resolution for the declaration of a nuisance property located at 105 Brookhaven Drive. Mayor Morris stated that he has been informed that more research was needed in ascertaining the proper ownership of this property and asked that the Council table this resolution until the October Council meeting or until such information could be gained. Motion was made by Mr. Sterling and seconded by Mr. Howard to table the resolution. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, and Cothern.

Item (14) on the agenda was an ordinance fixing and establishing the property tax millage to be collected for the City of Searcy for 2014. Mayor Morris noted that this is a continuation of the current millage rate. This has to be done annually and referred to the County Quorum Court for the levy of property taxes as required by Arkansas state law. A motion was made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Cothern, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, and Cothern. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Sterling, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Howard, Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Cothern, and Arnett. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Cothern, seconded by Mr. Howard, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Sterling, English, Raney, Brewer, Cothern, Arnett, and Howard. **Ordinance 2014-17**

Item (15) on the agenda was a budget ordinance to:

Section 1. The budget for the City of Searcy, Arkansas, is amended in the following manner:

- a. Appropriate \$32,660.00 to ‘GIF–LIGHTLE CTR IMPROVEMENTS’ revenue account (#01 4-000-98-98) for the receipt of General Improvement Fund grant reimbursement for new roof and other improvements at the John E. Lightle Senior Citizens Center;
- b. Appropriate \$14,003.89 to ‘OTHER REIMBURSEMENT REVENUE’ revenue account (#01 4-000-70-05) for the receipt of refund from the

Federal Aviation Administration on the cost of relocation of the Automatic Weather Sensor System Acquisition Control Unit (AWSS ACU) equipment from the old airport terminal building to the new airport terminal building (this is the unused portion of \$20,068.00 paid in 2013 for the relocation of the equipment);

- c. Appropriate \$559.27 to Code Enforcement 'TRAVEL/TRAINING' expenditure account (#01 5-120-01-06) and appropriate \$559.27 to Code Enforcement 'TIRES' expenditure account (#01 5-120-03-05); (Code Enforcement truck was involved in an accident that was not the city driver's fault. \$1,118.54 was received from the insurance company of the driver at fault and this is a 50/50 split of insurance claim reimbursement requested by Code Enforcement in lieu of repair of damage to 2000 Ford F-150 truck);
- d. Appropriate \$4,979.14 from unappropriated General Fund reserves to Cemetery 'TOOLS/EQUIPMENT' expenditure account (#01 5-030-02-07) for the cost of replacement of the equipment that had been stolen and building repair at Community Service;
- e. Appropriate \$9,950.00 from unappropriated General Fund reserves to Engineering 'SURVEYING EQUIPMENT' expenditure account (#01 5-130-05-07) for the purchase of a survey grade GPS system to replace broken system;
- f. Appropriate \$1,000.00 to Fire 'FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION' expenditure account (#01 5-070-01-13) for receipt of \$1,000.00 donation from XTO Energy, Inc.;
- g. Appropriate \$430,777.00 to Street 'ISSUE #1 MUNICIPAL TURNBACK PAVING' expenditure account (#02 5-900-05-15) for expenditures made for the 2014 street paving program using the Issue #1 10-year Municipal Turnback revenue that has been received;
- h. Appropriate \$1,026,615.00 from unappropriated Street Fund reserves to Street 'PAVING' expenditure account (#02 5-900-05-07); [this is the balance needed for approved total of \$1,607,392.00 for the 2014 street

paving program: \$430,777.00 (from Issue #1 Municipal Turnback) +
\$150,000.00 (2014 paving appropriation) + \$1,026,615.00
(appropriation)];

Section 2. The Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to expend the following sums:

- a. \$48,817.53 to Stephenson Oil Company for fuel for all departments;

A motion was made by Mr. Raney, seconded by Mr. Brewer, to suspend the rules and allow reading of the ordinance by title only. Motion carried with the following voting “yes”: English, Raney, Brewer, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, and Sterling. Mr. Gibson read the ordinance by title only. A motion was then made by Mr. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Sterling, to adopt the ordinance. The ordinance passed with the following voting “yes”: Raney, Brewer, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, and English. Mr. Gibson then read the emergency clause of the ordinance. Motion was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Arnett, to adopt the emergency clause, with the following voting “yes”: Brewer, Cothorn, Arnett, Howard, Sterling, English, and Raney. **Ordinance 2014-18**

The Mayor announced:

- The “Get Down Downtown” Festival will be held on September 26 & 27, 2014
- The County/City Clean-up will be held on October 16 – 18, 2014

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: October 14, 2014

/s/ David Morris
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ Jerry Morris
CITY CLERK

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